

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 098873 TOSEC 110016

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY AICRAFT PRIORITY

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FOL REPEAT OF ROME 6572 TO SECSTATE INFO DIA NATO USCINCEUR
MILAN NAPLES USDOCOSOUTH APR 22

QTE: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ROME 6572

USDOCOSOUTH FOR INTAF

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PINT, IT

SUBJECT: ZACCAGNINI CONCLUDING HIS CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER
PARTIES TODAY

REF: ROME 6493

1. FOLLOWING A CLEARLY UNPRODUCTIVE BUT FORMALLY NON-
CONCLUSIVE MEETING WITH PSI SECRETARY DEMARTINO YESTERDAY
EVENING, DC SECRETARY ZACCAGNINI MET AT NOON TODAY
(APRIL 22) WITH PCI SECRETARY BERLINGUER. BY END OF DAY
HE WILL ALSO CONCLUDE MEETINGS WITH REPUBLICAN (PRI) AND
LIBERAL (PLI) PARTY SECRETARIES. (ZACCAGNINI MET YESTERDAY WITH
PSDI LEADER SARAGAT BEFORE MEETING SOCIALISTS, AND
RECEIVED A POSITIVE REPLY.) THOUGH ZACCAGNINI HAS YET TO
SCHEDULE A DC DIRECTORATE MEETING TO REPORT BACK ON HIS
MANDATE, MOST OBSERVERS EXPECT ONE TOMORROW. DC WILL
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PAGE 02 STATE 098873 TOSEC 110016

HAVE TO DECIDE WHETHER TO EMBARK ON ANOTHER ROUD OF

CONSULTATIONS, TRY TO ORGANIZE A JOINT MEETING OF PARTIES OF SO-CALLED "CONSTITUTIONAL ARC", OR ABANDON INITIATIVE.

2. ZACCAGNINI REFUSED TO COMMENT ON RESULTS OF MEETING WITH DEMARTINO, INSISTING THAT HE WILL TAKE STOCK ONLY AFTER COMPLETING HIS ROUND OF CONSULTATIONS. DEMARTINO AVOIDED CATEGORIC COMMENT BUT SAID ENOUGH TO MAKE OBSERVERS UNANIMOUS IN JUDGING THAT NO REAL PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE TOWARD AGREEMENT TO AVOID ELECTIONS. AMONG OTHER GUARDED COMMENTS, DEMARTINO TOLD REPORTERS, AND PARTY ORGAN AVANTI HEADLINED, THAT "DC PROPOSALS DO NOT MEET THE DEMANDS OF THE SOCIALISTS." IN LATER INTERVIEW DEMARTINO REPORTEDLY SAID THAT "EARLY ELECTIONS ARE PREFERABLE." NEGATIVE AS THEY ARE, DEMARTINO'S COMMENTS APPEAR MILD AND CONCILIATORY WHEN COMPARED TO THOSE OF OTHER LEADING SOCIALIST EXPONENTS, PARTICULARLY THOSE OF POWERFUL FACTION LEADER MANCINI.

3. NOTHING YET REVEALED OF WHAT TRANSPIRED BETWEEN BERLINGUER AND ZACCAGNINI WHO MET FOR ALMOST THREE HOURS. PARLIAMENTARY PCI LEADERS NATTA AND PERNA PARTICIPATED WITH BERLINGUER; ZACCAGNINI, AS IN MEETINGS YESTERDAY, WAS ACCOMPANIED BY DEPUTY SECRETARY GALLONI AND HEAD OF DC PLANNING OFFICE VITTORINO COLOMBO (INSTEAD OF HIS PARTY'S PARLIAMENTARY LEADERS).

4. COMMENT: THIS FAR, ZACCAGNINI'S "VIA CRUCIS," AS ONE JOURNALIST CALLS HIS INITIATIVE, HAS NOT ALTERED THE GENERAL EXPECTATION THAT NATIONAL ELECTIONS WILL TAKE PLACE IN JUNE. A PSDI SOURCE HAS CONFIRMED THAT ZACCAGNINI IS SOUNDING OUT POSSIBILITY OF CALLING JOINT MEETING OF PARTIES OF SL-CALLED "CONSTITUTIONAL ARC." WE UNDERSTAND THAT DEMARTINO NEITHER ACCEPTED OR EXCLUDED PSI PARTICIPATION FOR THE TIME BEING. VOLPE UNQTE SISCO

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